

Spring and Summer Staff Changes at Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

MT DES has made several staffing changes this spring and summer, including five new hires who have filled vacancies and three newly created positions under the Division re-organization. The experience, skills, and talents they bring to MT DES will help us to better serve our partners and make Montana's communities more disaster resilient. We are so excited to have them as part of our team at MT DES!

Recovery Bureau Chief, Brett Lloyd



Brett Lloyd joined MT DES in June as the newly created Response Bureau Chief. Brett Lloyd has amassed 20 years of emergency management experience in the public and private sector. He has worked with Lewis and Clark County on several

planning projects, including developing the county Terrorism Incident Response Plan, Homeland Security Strategic Plan, and updated their Hazardous Materials Response Plan and Emergency Operations Plan.

Brett has significant real-world experience as a member of several all-hazard incident response teams including Lewis & Clark County's EOC Management Team, Public Health Department Incident Response Team, Lewis & Clark County Unified Health Command, County Local Incident Support Team (LIST), Northern Rockies Western Montana Type 2 Incident Management Team and Witt-O'Brien's Type 1 All Hazard Incident Response Team. He is a Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP) as well as a State & Nationally Certified Instructor in over two dozen all-hazard incident response and emergency management courses including ICS, NIMS, HSEEP, EMI Basic Academy, Active Shooter, Continuity and Mental Health First Aid.

Brett has worked as a private consultant, assisting many state agencies, hospitals, and local governments. He is active with the county LEPC and volunteers as a member of Search and

Rescue. Prior to his emergency management career, Brett served in the Army as a Counterintelligence Special Agent, Police Officer, and 6th Grade School Teacher. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and dozens of EM related certificates and honors.

Grants Coordinator, Pam Fruh



Pam Fruh will serve as a MT DES as a Grant Coordinator. Prior to coming to MT DES, Pam worked with the MT Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Program as the Food Distribution Program Manager where she was responsible for the ordering,

warehousing, and distribution of USDA Foods to 250 school districts in Montana. In this role, Pam developed an appreciation of all things trucking, and insider knowledge of school menus across the state (i.e., where to find chili and scratch-made cinnamon rolls for lunch!).

Pam attended MSU Bozeman where she earned a bachelor's degree in economics. She and her husband Jason have two grown children and two spoiled dogs. In her spare time, Pam enjoys quilting, cooking, eating, and most outdoor activities as long as sleeping in a tent is not required.

Grants Coordinator, Sarah Harmon

Sarah Harmon joined MT DES as a Grant Coordinator in May, 2023. Sarah has a multidisciplinary bachelor's degree in public health and psychology from Carroll



College and graduated in December of 2021. Prior to working at MT DES, she worked at DPHHS for about a year and a half before her transition to the Department of Military Affairs.

Sarah has a wonderful husband and three dogs who all are spoiled rotten. She absolutely loves tattoos and is an avid podcast listener. In the fall, she can typically be found in the mountains upland bird hunting or in eastern Montana looking for that next trophy buck.

Sarah states that she is so honored to join the DES team and encourages everyone to please feel free to stop by and say hi!

Recover Coordinator, Jason Fadely



Jason Fadely joins MT DES as a Recovery Coordinator. He grew up in Stevensville, Montana and recently relocated to Helena from Coos Bay, Oregon. Jason attended Utah Valley University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in emergency management

with a disaster emphasis.

He also served as a volunteer Duty Officer with the Red Cross. Jason's time spent helping set up shelters during hurricane Mathew in Florida helped him realize that disasters bring out the best (and sometimes worst) in people, and he wanted to be a part of helping others during these situations. Jason loves the outdoors and is looking forward to exploring more of the Helena area.

Recovery Coordinator, Jonathon Busby

Jonathan joined MT DES as a Recovery Coordinator in late March of 2023. Jonathan grew up in Great Falls, Montana.

After graduating from high school, he attended Montana State University



earning a BS in Anthropology with a minor in Religious Studies. Jonathan went on to earn a Masters in Classical Archaeology from the State University of New York at Albany. As an archaeologist he worked on multiple excavations in Israel and North Macedonia.

Jonathan got his start in emergency management when he took a reservist position with FEMA EHP and worked in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Jonathan grew up playing hockey and continues to participate in the Helena Adult leagues. His other interests include fishing, hunting, and woodworking.

Office Manager, Krystal McQueen



Krystal joined MT DES as Office Manager in May of 2023. She brings over 10 years of experience in office administration, clerical work, and customer service.

Most recently she has supported the Department of Administration, Local

Government Services Bureau, as a program assistant. She spent eight years as an Office Service Clerk for the USAF Youth Programs where she received the 2018 Air Force organization of the year award. She is pursuing a degree in business administration from Trident University International.

Preparedness Program Manager, Amanda Avard

Amanda Avard, former Mitigation Coordinator, started her new position mid-May at MT DES as Preparedness Program Manager.

Amanda has worked at MT DES for the past four and a half years, first as a Grants Coordinator, and more



recently as a Mitigation Coordinator. During her time with MT DES, Amanda has taken on many different roles to support the Division throughout the response to COVID-19 and last year's flooding while ensuring the daily tasks continued to get accomplished. Amanda shared that she is truly humbled for the opportunity to serve as the Preparedness Program Manager and looks forward to continuing work with essential stakeholders and partners across the state. "What I enjoy most in all I do is knowing that my actions make a positive impact on others."

Amanda's prior work experience includes working at MT DPHHS, running her own interior design business, and teaching classes at Helena College. The knowledge and ability she brings to this position will be greatly beneficial in setting us up for success in all aspects of preparedness.

Training, Exercise, and Education Coordinator, Joey Zahara



Joey Zahara transitioned in June from Central District Field Officer to Training, Exercise, and Education Coordinator in the Preparedness Program. Joey came to MT DES 11 years ago. His time as a District Field Officer

allowed him to realize his passion for Emergency Management.

Joey has a degree in Business Management along with a degree in Fire Science. He became one of the youngest paid fire chiefs in Montana serving as the County Fire Chief of Teton County Fire & Rescue.

Joey's work passion is the PIO role within Emergency Management, being one of very few FEMA Master PIO's in the nation. He also serves as the Lead Liaison Officer for the DNRC County Assist Team.

Joey is a dad to three wonderful, bright children that keep him moving with all their activities and imaginations. When he is not working, you will find

him at the golf course, racetrack racing sprint cars, or cheering his children on at their various extra circular activities, taking pride in being a loving father. Joey truly believes in the attitude of "failing to train, you're training to fail." Joey is excited to fulfill his new position as Training, Exercise, and Education Coordinator and looks forward to bringing what he has to offer to the great state of Montana.